

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12, and 14-16 are currently pending in this application. Claims 4, 8, 9, 13 and 17-18 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of any subject matter contained therein. The Applicant reserves the right to further prosecute the subject matter of the present application, including any canceled claims in subsequent division, continuation, and/or continuation-in-part application(s). Claims 8, 9, 13, 17 and 18 have been withdrawn pursuant to an election and are hereby canceled. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 12 were objected to as depending from claim 1, a rejected claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (none).

In response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4. The remaining pending claims depend from allowable claim 1, thus are themselves allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko (2001/0055891) in view of Hult (5,418,301).

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko (2001/0055891) in view of Hult (5,418,301), and further in view of Ito (2002/0081794).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter originally presented in Claim 4. The remaining pending claims depend from allowable Claim 1. In view of the present amendment, the Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication, including any extension fees or fees for the net addition of claims, to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Joseph A. Hynds
Registration No. 34,627
Attorney for Applicants
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK
1425 K. Street, Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-6040